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MONTEREY NEWS

April, 1977

Mark

OUR TOWN

Special Town Meeting March 19

There will be a special Town Meeting Saturday, March 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the social room of the Congregational Church. There are two money requests, one for $10,000 for the Highway Department (the snow and sand account having been depleted over the winter), and the other for $1,000 for the Veterans' Benefit Account (two unforeseen veterans' cases having almost depleted that account).

The Town Has a New Policeman

On February 14 the Board of Selectmen announced the appointment of James G. Christie, of Beartown Mountain Road, Monterey, as a special Police Officer of the Monterey Police Department, effective immediately.

Farewell Dinner in Honor of the Phoenixes

On March 23 there will be a covered dish dinner in the church social room in honor of Albert and Frances Phoenix at 6:50 p.m. Reservations must be made by March 20. Call 528-1723 or 528-1644 for this purpose and to find out what to bring.

A Notice from the Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors would like to remind all owners of cars registered in Massachusetts that the Motor Vehicle Excise bills must be paid within sixty (60) days or additional charges accumulate. The owner is responsible for each bill numbered and recorded in his name; therefore, please do not overlook any bill in the belief it may be a duplicate or not valid for any reason. Those persons seeking an abatement should file their Application for Abatement with the Board promptly, so that the abatement can be processed. If time is short, please pay the bill and then apply for an abatement. No demands or late charges added to the bill can be abated by the Board. When in doubt, phone the Assessors' office: 528-1443.

The Monterey Store Changes Hands

The Monterey General Store became the property of Ira and Dianne Weiss on Monday, March 14. Frances and Albert Phoenix, who have owned and operated the store for the past twelve years, are retiring temporarily to the home of a married daughter in Hampden, Massachusetts.

Ira, who has spent the past month in a loose apprenticeship to the former proprietors, intends to make no fundamental changes in any of the various aspects of the store. Hours of operation, basic inventory and average mark-up will remain the same. The new owners propose to add a little "more color" to the interior decoration by such means as fresh paint and a barn wood facing here and there. There was mention of a pot-bellied stove.

In regard to perishables, there will continue to be a "decent meat counter" (cold cuts, hamburger, chicken) and a modest amount of fresh produce. During the summer the Weisses expect to be supplied with vegetables by Dianne's family, the Cartinellis, owners of a farm stand in Sheffield. Local handicrafts will be sold on consignment. Coffee will be served through the day, as usual.

The Weisses and their nine-month-old son Ben are living in the apartment above the store. The change of hands has been smooth and without incident. In the process of sorting through old stock, there were discovered several pairs of large-size dungarees, priced at $2.95 a pair. They are twelve years old and probably sturdier than anything selling today. Ira says, "If you've got a belly, come on in."

Marion Barrier Purchases Roadside Store

On February 15 Marion Barrier purchased from Rick Mielke the Roadside Store on Route 23. Since that time she and her husband Mike, who manages the garage next door, have spruced the place up with white paint and a bright yellow counter. Marion has

(continued on next page)

a reputation for being a surpassingly good cook. She is offering, in addition to the regular selection of sandwiches, hamburgers and doughnuts, a $1.25 luncheon special five days a week during the winter. One day last week the special was sliced ham, green beans and home fries. Another time it was homemade beef stew. Both times, by several reports, it was good. Lunch is served from 11:00 to 1:30, breakfast from 8:00 to 10:00. Eventually there will be a small delicatessen with cold cuts and salads. In the summer there will be hot and cold grinders, ice cre cones and milk shakes.

Roadside has gasoline and groceries as well. Store hours are 8:00 to 6:00. Starting in April the store will be open until 9:00 on Friday nights. Janet Volckhausen will man the gas pumps and the grill on Sunday mornings while Marion teaches Sunday School at the United Church of Christ.

Marion would like to try selling drinks in returnable bottles and hopes to initiate a small recycling operation for aluminum cans outside the store. In addition to that, she will try to accommodate requests from her customers for new or different foods to be sold from the grocery counter.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immaculate Conception Church, Mill River -- evening Mass every Friday at 7:30 till Easter; Sunday Mass at 10:00 a.m.

The Women's Guild of Our Lady of the Hills met February 16. New altar linens will be purchased and repairs investigated. Pat Andrus was elected president, Barbara Gauthier secretary-treasurer.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Notes — Morning worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. . . . . Church School, grades 4-6, Sunday, 9:15 a.m.; kindergarten, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; grades 1-3, Wednesday, 3:00 p.m.

Lenten Services — The series of sermons begun with the Lenten season will continue as follows: March 20, "The Individual: The Group." Read I Corinthians 12:21-31; Matthew 18:15-20. March 27, "Our Cries of Need: What Is God Doing?" Read Psalm 73; Romans 7:13-25. April 3, "Bearing Witness to Our Faith." Read Luke 10:1-2; Acts 4:13-31.

Lenten Study Group — Each Monday at 7:30 p.m. all in the church are invited to study together the subject and the scriptures for the next Sunday. We are meeting in different homes. This is providing a stimulating interchange between the minister and the people, both assuming responsibility for the direction and development of the sermons on Sunday. Some persons who are not able to attend are sending their observations from their private study to the minister.

Maundy Thursday Communion — The celebration of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 7, will b at 7:30 p.m. This will be celebrated with the Office of Tenebrae. Al at this time we hold in memory those of our church who have died during the year.

Good Friday Pilgrimage for Hunger — Our church will be participating in a 20-mile walk for hunger on Good Friday. This will be in support of two projects. We will need those who will make the walk and those who will support the walkers. More details later.

Easter Worship — Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, April 10. The resurrection story will be recounted in scripture and music, drama and word.

FLOWER LIKE A STAR

Flower that is shaped like a star, do you not
Know that a star gives light,
And you are only a flower and cannot
Sparkle across the night?

"I know," said the bloom, "and all of my days
Are less than an astral hour.
But by trying to be a star, I become
A little bit more of a flower."

Margery Mansfield

WHAT LIES AT THE SOURCE?

I grew up on the Iowa plains. Water was there abundantly. It was down in deep wells. At that time there was no rural electrification. The way we got that water was to get on the handle and pump. It was real work, but there was plenty of water for those who worked hard enough.

Many years later, living in New England, I found that it was possible to obtain water in quite a different way. Springs flowing from the mountains give a vastly changed picture of the way water comes to us. Here the water comes as a flow. Freely, and often abundantly, it flows. To use it you need only to be where it is and avail yourself of the flow.

How does life itself come to us? Is it like the deep Iowa wells? It's there in abundance, but you don't get a drop if you don't pay your full price in labor and sweat. Or might it be that life is more like the spring, flowing its abundance down to us, and all we must do is acknowledge and enjoy it?

We need images to help us see. I am sure that these two images reflect a movement in the way I have come to see life. There is no doubt my earlier view about life is accurately reflected in the way we got water from the deep wells. Life and resource was there, but you got nothing unless you pumped it up with your own labor. So long as one looks at life that way, behold, it turns out exactly as you imagine it to be. Under this image the rewards of life come only to those who grit their teeth and flex their muscles. Perhaps that is why the first part of my life produced such a tight gut and a knit brow. If that's the way life comes, then I was paying the only price I knew. It was appropriate to the image.

I find myself wishing I had spent more time around springs when I was younger. Of course it might not have made any difference at all in my seeing, certainly not unless my inner experiencing of life had changed. These early years seemed to carry such an inexorable message that life was a reluctant, grudging giver. Experience with life has taught me that my perception was shaped in too cramped a mold. Now the evidence is pointing to the fact that life comes to us more in the image of the spring than in the image of the deep well.

Laotzu, the Chinese sage who was born 604 B.C., made this observation:

> How can a man's life keep its course
> If he will not let it flow?
> Those who flow as life flows know
> They need no other force:
> They feel no wear, they feel no tear,
> They need no mending, no repair.

Sometimes I think it a shame that wisdom such as this is available to us and yet we have to learn about life through our own adventures and misadventures with it. Why could not I as an Iowa farm boy have learned what Laotzu had to say and spent less of my life in frenzied pumping to force life into what I thought was an acceptable pattern? In another mood, though, I decide that this is the very thing life is all about. Is there any better use of my days and years than to discover through my own experience and reflection the nature of the universe -- and the nature of my own person?

I wish it hadn't taken me so long to trust the flow of life. I wish that I could shorten the span of time some others I know are spending in the sweat shop of life with their tense muscles and knit brows. In my counseling work I find it necessary to help people loosen their grip on the pump handle. They are proving how serious they are by their determination to force good things into place. Ah, yes, they would force good things to happen. That is just the rub. The good is not able to take form under duress. We know that we can't force it in others. Why do we imagine we can treat ourselves differently?

The great teachers of life all know that the best qualities do not come into place by forcing. Laotzu asks the question,

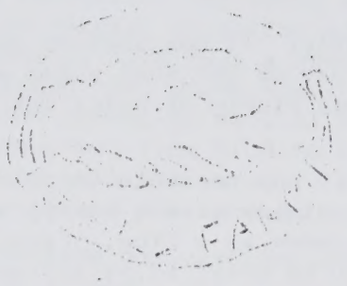
> How can a man's life keep its course
> If he will not let it flow?

He asks the question because most surely, he had seen the equivalent of my labored pumping in his day. I don't know how long Laotzu lived before he wrote his poem about life's flow. Somewhere out of his experience and reflection the truth came to him.

> Those who flow as life flows know
> They need no other force.

There is another way to put this. Life becomes cankered and twisted as we treat it with force. Life opens into a beautiful flow when we approach it with trust. It is that simple. Yet it is that difficult when it calls for turning around from a whole lifetime of mismanagement.

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ



The executive committee of the Board of Directors at the Farm on February 27 to decide important matte. of business. Four non-resident directors and one officer attended, giving exactly the number needed for a quorum. They were the Rev. Paul Kennedy, president, from Ridgefield, Connecticut; Dr. David Balderston, from New York City, Col. Lawrence Bolvig, from Western New York State, David Colt, from Boston, and Matthew Dempsey, from Great Barrington. Invited guests were Dr. Jean Balderston, Rose McKee and Lois Winchester. Mr. Kennedy appointed a committee for the Open House Day, which will be held at the new guest residence, probably on the afternoon of May 22. The Farm hopes for a large attendance of interested friends.

The longed-for break in winter weather has come. Trees are tapped, buckets are out. After weekly staff meeting, Joe Burkholder asked all work leaders to join him at the sugar house for "a sap to syrup seminar." This year's first run is a good one.

Rose McKee

MONTEREY GRANGE # 291

The Grange met on February 16. The theme of the program was "The Four Seasons." Sister Ethel Ketchen turned over to the Grange $58.00 realized at a Dutch ward party held at her house. Other parties will be held by other members at their homes at future dates. Worthy Master John Lossin and Lecturer Mary Wallace turned over $40.00 to the Grange from a farm display prize at Great Barrington Fair.

On March 2 the theme of the program was "Safety." March 16 was Booster Night, open to the Public. The Guest Speaker was Florence Blisk, State Grange Junior Director, from Feeding Hills. There was a skit and a musical program. Numerous members and friends attended.

Mary Wallace
Lecturer

ALL BABY LIFE

Listen! After the snow and the long cold rain,
Through the soft air, you can hear the tree toads sing --
"Spring peepers," out of sight but filling
Marsh and meadow with their trilling.
It's said they sing three times, and then the spring!

Beneath the old gray eaves, the wasps,
Newly emerged and orphans, every one,
Open and dry their wings in the pale sun,
Then, uninstructed, fly against the blue.
It is a part of halleluia, too.

All baby life comes out. The splitting seed
Sends up its green, the infant spiders break
Out of their silken ball and start to spin.
This is the time when God is tenderest toward earth.
Bringing the lambs and wobbly calves to birth
And home, from their long perilous flight, the birds.

Margery Mansfield

BOY SCOUTS

The main event of the month will be the Blue and Gold Dinner on April 1 at 6:00 p.m. in the church social room. Mr. Steward, of the Boy Scout Council, will present slides of Cub and Boy Scout activities. The dinner is in celebration of the Anniversary of scouting. Those who attend are requested to bring their own place settings. Food will be provided by the mothers of the Scouts.

Cub Scouts — Den 1 of Monterey will create the table decorations and will also perform the opening ceremony at the Blue and Gold Dinner. Den 2 of New Marlborough will present a skit.

On March 10 Den 1 visited the Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad and inspected the ambulances. Mr. Charles Schneider explained the responsibilities of the squad.

Later in the spring Pack 51 will be raising funds for its operating expenses by doing chores. If you have a task suitable for a boy 8-10 years of age, save it for the "Chore Corps." Our rates will be very reasonable and our boys very helpful.

Webelos — The Webelos will be working on their Wood Working Achievement for their Craftsman Badge. They will be making key holder plaques, neckerchief slides and scarecrows out of wood. They will visit Mr. Ward McCarthy of Egremont to see his furniture restoration studio and to learn about different types of woods.

Space Derby & Pack Meeting — On February 18 the following awards were presented: Best Looking Rockets -- Kurt Callahan, Steven Phillips and Robert Sluka. Cubmaster Robert Gauthier presented pins and badges to the following: One Year Service Pin -- Steven Phillips and Keith Amstead; Two Year Service Pin -- David Gauthier and Denis O'Connor; Bobcat Badge -- Steven Brucale; Gold and Silver Arrow -- Steven Phillips; Webelos' Citizen Badge -- Denis O'Connor.

GIRL SCOUTS

Brownies — Sunday, March 6, was the first day of Girl Scout Week. Thursday the Brownies had a party celebrating the 65th birthday of Girl Scouting. Sunday, March 12, was Girl Scout Sunday.

The Brownies are studying Mexico in March. Each girl is expected to bring to the next meeting some information about the history of the country. There are plans to make tacos. Leonard and Cynthia Weber are scheduled to show slides of their travels through Mexico. At the end of the month there will be a fiesta, complete with pinata.

Cadettes — The Cadettes are doing the Girl Scout Cookie Drive this month. Be on the lookout for a Girl Scout with an armload of cookies at your door. Some of the money from this drive will be put toward a trip to Washington, D.C. The Senior Girl Scouts are working with the Cadettes on this project.

4-H NEWS

The Monterey Community Club and the Greenthumbs held a meeting on Friday, February 25, in the church social room. Flection of officers took place, with Shawn Ryder elected president, Mark Makuc vice president and Kathy O'Connor junior leader.

The Greenthumbs will have two vegetable judging teams this year, a junior and a senior team.

Literature on various projects was passed out.

On Friday evening, March 18, the visual presentation will take place at South Egremont. Shawn Ryder will be representing the Southern Berkshire 4-H Camera Club with a demonstration in photography. Members of the 4-H Camera Club will have an exhibit at the Great Barrington Savings Bank next month.

A Small Engines Project will be started up next month with John Ryder as leader.

LITTLE LEAGUE

The Little League needs help! Anyone at last year's Little League games surely noticed how desperately our team needs new uniforms. A group of interested people has begun a campaign to raise enough money to purchase uniforms by May 1. They have set a goal of $500. Businesses in town will be approached directly, but we are also appealing to readers of the MONTEREY NEWS for donations. Help get the Monterey Yankees off to a good start!

Please mail contributions to: Monterey Little League, c/o Pat Amstead, Box 123, Main Road, Monterey, Mass. 01245.

(continued on next page)

(Youth News -- continued)

EASTER EGG HUNT

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Sunday, April 10, at 2:00 p.m. on the library lawn. Children up through Grade 2 are invited to participate. The Park Commission will sponsor the hunt. Brownie Scouts will dye the eggs. Cub Scouts will take charge of hiding them, and the Cadette Scouts will supervise the affair.

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

We have received several contributions this month for which we are extremely grateful. They came from the following: William Bell, Thaddeus Falcon, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gillis, Mrs. Esther Leidhold, Mrs. Jean Dupont Miller, Ruth Milsner, Mr. & Mrs. Everett Probeck, Mr. & Mrs. David Raycroft, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schlichter, Albert Shepard, Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Zackim.

S T A F F

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THE MISSING LINK

the missing link

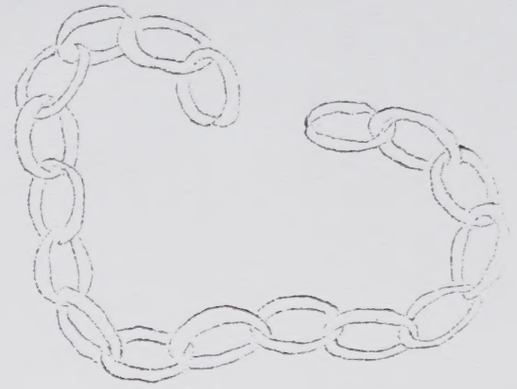
MONTEREY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Sponsored by the Monterey United Church of Christ

that the whole community may be served

We humans are both rich and poor. There is great richness and diversity in the gifts we possess. There is great poverty in that persons and needs are often poorly linked. This organization is an attempt to fill in that missing link as far as we are able in this community.

Many people have something to give. The souls of people shrivel when they want to give and find no ready channel toward serving others. The urge to give may be only dimly recognized, but once it is acknowledged and acted upon, persons really come into their own. We would like to help you give expression to that urge, and expressing it, bring yourself into clearer, stronger focus.



All of us have needs. We have different needs at different times. Some of us are in a position to know of particular needs that others have. Yet where to turn? That need may be sharp or clear or it may be only a vague longing. Whether clear or vague, we'd like to have you tell us of that need. Maybe more can be done for it than first appears.

We have a dream. If this dream unfolds, begins to work toward realization, we think our organization might like to change its name to THE LINK. Only heaven knows the directions that could emerge. And we are quite willing to leave it to heaven. That is better than trying to force a direction.

Yet let us dream. Teaching-learning situations could develop. Special interest groups might form. Skills people have, and work others need done might be linked together. People with handicaps such as blindness or lameness could be served in special ways. Loneliness might be turned into friendships. Qualities of personality, now little used, might be enhanced and cherished. Services now unavailable might be opened up. What is missing in Monterey life that a little imagination and energy could bring into place? We conceive of starting our work simply as a clearing house for ideas, thoughts, concerns.

Only one thing, let's not be timid. However vague and undefined your feeling regarding a missing link, bring it into the open. There are a lot of partly-sensed missing links lying around. Let us work toward a more complete human community. Your telephone call could start putting the chain together. The coordinator of THE MISSING LINK is Patricia Howard. Write to her at Box 105, Monterey, 01245, or telephone 413-528-4879.